

1 Corinthians

Wisdom & Unity

Meeting the demands of
Christian life and living



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Starting where
you are:

Any questions?

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1 Corinthians 1 – Textual Outline

- 1:1-3 Greetings
- 1:4-9 Thanksgiving
- 1:10-16 Appeal for Unity
- 1:17-25 Wisdom of the Gospel
- 1:26-31 Called for God's Glory

1 Corinthians 1 – Thematic Outline

The BIG Idea: God's wisdom counteracts the world's ways

God's wisdom as revealed through God's calls for the church

- “that you may be blameless” (8)
- “that you may be one” (10)
- “that you may be wise” (30)

1:1-3 Greetings

- A general introduction
- A specific identification
 - Apostolic authority
 - Sanctified assembly
- A “radical” and necessary benediction

Foundational to what follows are the types of relationships implied throughout the greeting.

1:4-9 Thanksgiving

- Grateful for grace
- Grateful for gifts
- Grateful for the Guarantor's guarantee

Thanksgiving tills the soil of our soul to help us cultivate healthy attitudes and perspectives for continued maturation and growth.

1:10-16 Appeal for Unity

- Signs of divided fellowship
 - Accusations from within the fellowship
 - Accepted allegiances to “personalities” or “parties”
- Call to center Christ
 - How were you saved?
 - Into whom were you baptized?

Jesus is central to Christian faith and must be the unifying source in the local church.

1:17-25 Wisdom of the Gospel

- v. 17 as transition/prelude connects the appeal for unity to the wisdom of the Gospel.
- The cross and culture
 - “Wisdom of words” (eloquent speech) **vs.** “Foolishness” of the cross
 - *(In the act of)* perishing **vs.** *(In the act of)* being saved
 - Cultural confirmations **vs.** Christ crucified
 - A foolish scandal **vs.** Display of God’s power and wisdom
 - The wide wisdom gap

God’s wisdom and power are displayed through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are infinitely greater than worldly wisdom.

1:26-31 Called for God's Glory

- General makeup of the “calling,” the *klēsis*.
 - “not many ...” according to social conventions of status.
 - “But God has chosen...” according to God’s own wisdom.
- Exclusive rights to glory
 - “Glory” is revealed in Christ Jesus
 - “Glory” belongs to God

Salvation is not a status symbol for which we receive glory. Salvation is an act that enables us to give glory to the One who is deserving of it.